

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 SCS-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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O 310945Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2795

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 4542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: DVLIN MISSION

REF: STATE 126649 AND KINSHASA 4541

1. DEVLIN DEPARTED KINSHASA EARLY MAY 31, EXPECTING TO SEE PRESIDENT MOBUTU SOMEWHERE IN EQUATEUR PROVINCE.

2. RE PARA TWO, DEPTREFTEL, I MADE CONSCIOUS JUDGMENT AT 3:30 AM THAT GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP FOR DEVLIN WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ARMING HIM WITH NAME OF VAGNI. HE ALREADY KNEW THAT BISHOP WOULD NOT DO IT HIMSELF AND WAS BRIEFED BY ME TO TALK IN TERMS OF ONE OR MORE OF BISHOP'S STAFF MEMBERS. I ALSO KNEW THAT DEVLIN AND I HAD AGREED ON LAST MINUTE TELEPHONE CONTACT AND THAT THERE WAS HIGH PROBABILITY PHONES WOULDN'T WORK. ON LAST POINT, I WAS RIGHT.

3. AS FOR TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN RADIO STATEMENT AND SUBSTANTIVE EFFORTS, VAN DEN BERG IS RIGHT. ANTICIPATING POINT, I WAS CLEAR IN BRIEFING DEVLIN THAT WHILE BOTH DESIRABLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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LATTER CLEARLY MORE IMPORTANT.

4. AS FOR LOVING-MACFARLANE-STEINER TRIP TO UVIRA,
WHILE I AM AWARE EVERY HOUR COUNTS, THERE ARE NUMBER OF
REASONS WHY I BELIEVE WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL WE KNOW
MOBUTU'S REACTION. THIS IS HIGHLY DELICATE MATTER
FOR MOBUTU, FOR BISHOP, AND FOR USG. WE ARE OPERATING
IN SITUATION WHERE CHURCH-STATE CONFLICT CONTINUES, WHERE
INTERNAL DISSATISFACTION WITH MOBUTU IS GROWING WHICH
HE SUSPECTS CHURCH OF FOSTERING, AND HE MAY EVEN
HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT USG. CATARZI WAS EXPLICIT TO LOVING
AND PAPER I HAVE DEVLIN STATES, "HE WAS PREPARED TO
HAVE MEMBER OR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF SERVE AS INTERMEDIARIES
PROVIDED THIS WAS DONE WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE AND
CONCURRENCE OF THE GOZ". PAPER ADDS LOVING GAVE
ASSURANCES ON THIS POINT. FINALLY, OUR IMPRESSION IS
THAT ONE THING THAT WORKS REASONABLY WELL IN ZAIRE IS
MOBUTU'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. SINGLE VISIT BY AMERICAN
CONSUL TO BISHOP MAY PASS MORE OR LESS UNNOTICED. SO
MIGHT VISIT OF THREE AMERICANS CROSSING FRONTIER FROM
BURUNDI BUT RISK IS MUCH BIGGER AND IN MY JUDGEMENT NOT
WORTH IT. AGAIN I SAY LET'S SIT TIGHT FINGERS CROSSED.

HINTON

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